

who thus were in the midst of enormous and considerable distress. Bill had to be there for them, and thus could not come to California until June. That was the kind of man that he was.

When he retired from the NLRB in 1997 and when the parties that we had for him were still fresh in all of our minds, one of his first professional works was to represent a paraplegic in a disability case. And Herman Levy told me when they recently went together on a cruise to Alaska, it was Bill who would make sure that Herman, needing assistance, had a wheelchair and made sure those in charge of the ship were aware of his problems.

Bill loved his family. He was proud of his family—his parents and his siblings—and was particularly solicitous of their children. Indeed, he was solicitous and helpful to young people generally, not only in the legal profession and on our staff, but also to my own sons, with whom he would never fail to sit down and talk when they came to Washington and with whom he would sometimes meet when he was on the Los Angeles portion of his annual California visit.

Bill Stewart was devoted to Indiana University as well. It gave him his start in life. He often spoke fondly of his work as personal assistant to Herman B. Wells, Chancellor of the University. Thus, it was meet and right that in 1999 Bill was elected to the Indiana University Academy of Law Alumni Fellows, the most distinguished honor for an Indiana law graduate—and that he was to enjoy a reunion with Mr. Wells at that time.

Bill never stopped grieving for his deceased partner, Bill Dresser, who accompanied him when we went to the White House in October 1997 to meet President Clinton to commemorate Bill's Award.

Counsellor in all senses of the word . . . So often during these past two weeks since Bill's death on February 16, I have awakened in the middle of the night, finding it difficult to believe that he is gone. But on one occasion a week ago, I awoke and began to think about a problem of my own completely unrelated to the terrible events of February 16—but which seemed almost equally insoluble. I decided that it would be important for me to speak to someone about it. It was 5 a.m. and my mind automatically focused upon area code 301 and the number for Bill's home. That was my first instinct.

I have often thought that most of us will be extremely fortunate if we are remembered beyond one or two or five years subsequent to our respective deaths.

Bill will not be forgotten.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE COLORADO BLUESKY ENTERPRISES, INC.

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a special honor that I rise today to pay tribute to the Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, Inc. that is a devoted and compassionate organization in Pueblo, Colorado. The Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, Inc. has been improving the lives of Colorado citizens with developmental disabilities and their families for 40 years, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing their tremendous service to the Southern Colorado community.

The Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, Inc. has provided services and support to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families since its inception in 1964. This wonderful organization has placed individuals in jobs throughout the area after training them in their own community-based cafes and through contracted employment opportunities. The organization has served over 2,000 children with developmental disabilities, ages 0–3 years, by providing up to three years of therapy, which enable each child to begin life at their highest level of physical and cognitive skill.

Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, Inc. has served adults by providing residential shelter with loving host home families for hundreds of individuals and building affordable housing for highly independent consumers. In addition, it has provided transportation, counseling, life skills training and case management to consumers while spending thousands of hours training police, lawyers, city officials, judges and members of the Pueblo community about the special needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. Colorado Bluesky Enterprises is the lifeblood for the community of families who love and care for an individual with a developmental disability.

Mr. Speaker, the Colorado Bluesky Enterprises, Inc. is a dedicated, selfless organization that has 40 years of service assisting those in need from the Southern Colorado community. Their focus on individuals with developmental disabilities, and their families, is outstanding and exemplary to all of us in our nation. This organization's enthusiasm and commitment certainly deserve the recognition of this body of Congress. Congratulations on celebrating 40 years of compassionate and caring service.

COMMENDING TAIWAN

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the people of Taiwan have been some of the best friends this Country has ever had, and I would like to commend them on their longstanding friendship with this Nation. I also want to commend Taiwan for its continuing efforts in developing and sustaining a free democratic society and free markets.

The people of Taiwan are to be further commended for their efforts seeking greater international recognition, including an increasing role and participation in the World Health Organization and the United Nations. Quite simply, Taiwan is too important an economic force and democratic ally to be shunned to the political backwaters of global isolation.

I am encouraged with Taiwan's new administration's stated goal of pursuing better relations with the People's Republic of China. Taiwan's cross-strait dialogue with the PRC is crucial for resolving misunderstandings between Beijing and Taipei and Washington, which, Mr. Speaker, is the foundation for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, and, indeed, for all of Asia.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Taiwan, which has the support and best wishes of the

United States Congress and the American people.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND RETIREMENT OF EDWARD GEPPERT—CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ILLINOIS FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career and retirement of Edward Geppert, the Chief of Staff of the Illinois Federation of Teachers since 1994.

Prior to that, Ed served the IFT as Director of Organization (1983–1994), Field Service Director (1997–1983) and Executive Board Member (1975–1977).

Ed began his career in education as a social science teacher at Cahokia High School (1969–77) teaching government, sociology and history. He has been an IFT member since 1969 and is the former president of the Cahokia Federation of Teachers, Local 1272. In 1977, he became a field service director for the IFT, organizing locals in Southern Illinois. He has also served as a delegate on the East St. Louis (now Southwestern Illinois) Central Labor Council and the Southwest Area Council, IFT/AFT/AFL–CIO. Ed has also been a member of the Glassblowers and Bottlers Union and the United Rubber Workers.

His expertise in education and labor has been recognized by such groups as the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board, the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Learning Partnership and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He is also an active member of the Labor Committee of the Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois.

Ed and his wife Marti, a teacher in Cahokia, have three sons, Brad, Steve and Dan and reside in Belleville, Illinois. Their special joy is daughter-in-law Laurie and grandson Jack. Ed also serves his community through his involvement with the Illinois Learning Partnership.

I have known Ed for many years through his involvement with my wife Georgia, who is also an educator. I consider Ed my friend and have the utmost respect for him and the work he has done for education in our area and our state. Many times I have sought Ed's advice on issues related to the educational system in our country.

The IFT is an organization that is 85,000 strong with 23 offices around the state to service members and provide program support to each member. Ed has the courage of his convictions, and the IFT we know today is due in no small part to Ed's tremendous ability to build a team, keep everybody involved and continue working for our most democratic American institution, public education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Ed Geppert and wish him and his family the very best in the future.